

Back To Xanadu (Takaisin Xanaduun)

A Radio Play, 1996

Written by Mauri Ylä-Kotola & Hannu Puttonen

Directed by Hannu Puttonen

Starring

Pentti Kouri – Ted Nelson

Heikki Määttä – Joe Pop

Kaija Pakarinen – Alexandra Fallaci-Ragulin

Kirsi Ylijoki – Kathryn Moscow

Oskari Katajisto – Marshall Wanamaker

Voitto Nurmi – Joseph Nelson

Eeva Litmanen – Mary Nelson

Lari Lehtonen – Ted Nelson as a boy

Oskari Kettunen – Ed Nelson

Ossi Ahlapuro – John Delville

Timo Toikka – Bill Dwight

Erja Manto – Edie Carter

Music Bernard Herrman, Jeff Lynne, Öhm, Panasonic, etc.

Duration 68 minutes

A Radio Theatre Production for Finnish Broadcasting Company
(first broadcasted on 8th of April 1997)

It is year 2015. The worldwide net Xanadu is opened after decades of preparation. It combines all the essential areas of new media: Internet, multimedia, hypertext and virtual reality. The roots of Xanadu go back to the pre-history – 1960's and 1970's, and Ted Nelson is held as its father. The story of Nelson and Xanadu is seen as the dawn of the information age.

In the radio play the programming of two television channels is followed simultaneously. As the commentators of the worldwide screening of the opera *Parsifal* are Marshall Wanamaker and Kathryn Moscow. *Parsifal*'s libretto is based on the life of Ted Nelson. On the other channel the famous investigating journalist Alexandra Fallaci-Ragulin is making an interview with Nelson's biographer Joe Pop. Fallaci-Ragulin has found Nelson's old diary. There are several mysterious aspects concerning Xanadu, Nelson and also Pop's persona, that are bit by bit revealed.

Back To Xanadu combines through a means of radio play lots of references to cultural history. Behind Ted Nelson and Xanadu lurks Samuel Coleridge, Richard Wagner, William Randolph Hearst, Orson Welles at the time of *Citizen Kane*, and the growth of little computer firms into global empires.

The main role is played by Pentti Kouri, the famous Finnish professor of economics and a big investor, nowadays living in New York, who in the late 1980's almost ended up literally owning Finland, and subsequently was blamed somewhat unfairly of the whole recession that hit badly in the early 1990s in Finland. Kouri reads the stream of consciousness of Ted Nelson, that both starts and ends the play. In other roles are many well-known Finnish actors both from screen and television.